

PHYSICS STUDENTS GET A TASTE OF THE REAL WORLD AS APS INDUSTRIAL INTERNS

Through The American Physical Society's Industrial Summer Intern Program, eight undergraduate and graduate physics students found summer internships in four industrial laboratories this summer. Since its inception in 1978, the program has helped physics students find over 250 summer internships.

The employers and interns who participated in the 1990 program included the following:

IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center (Yorktown Heights, New York): Sally Andrek (Hunter College), Christopher L. Chua (MIT), Kendall B. Davis (Middlebury College), Ilya R. Lapshin (MIT)

Digital Signal Corporation (Springfield, Virginia): Thomas D. Donnelly (Middlebury College)

AT&T Bell Laboratories (Murray Hill, New Jersey): Stuart Friedman (Cornell University), Dennis T. Palmer (University of California, San Diego)

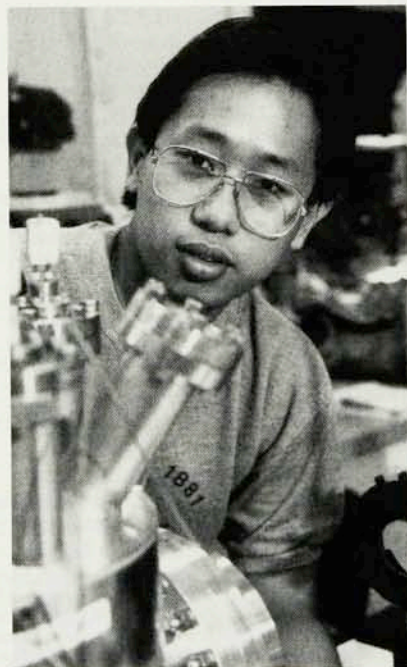
E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company (Wilmington, Delaware): Michael P. Mack (State University of New York, Buffalo)

The intern program is designed to cut down on the amount of paperwork and chance involved in getting students in contact with potential employers. Interested students submit applications to the program indicating their skills and experience. Then the Industrial Summer Intern Program selection committee, made up of seven physicists from industry and academia, reviews and rates the applications. The program administrator forwards to participating companies the applications of students whose skills match the companies' requirements. The companies are then free to contact students directly and arrange employment.

From 1978, when the program was initiated, to 1983, the number of internships and companies rose each year, peaking at 40 students and 25 labs. In recent years, however, fewer students and companies have taken

part in the program. The 1990 ISIP selection committee, chaired by James T. Davenport of Virginia State University, noted with concern the drop in the number of interns hired, from 23 in 1989 to 8 this year, as well as in the number of companies hiring, from 10 last year to 4 this year. Committee member Jeffrey A. Kash of the IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center said that his laboratory had fewer summer positions available this year because office space and research funds are tight. "For companies that are looking to cut funds, this is a relatively easy place to cut," Kash said.

Summer issues of the *Bulletin of The American Physical Society* contain information on how to apply to the summer internship program in 1991. Student application forms are available from physics department chairs or can be requested directly from APS. Companies that would like to receive ISIP student resumes should submit their requirements on a company information form. The deadline for applications is 31 October. Forms and further information are available from the ISIP Administrator, American Physical Society, 335 East 45 Street, New York NY 10017.



Christopher L. Chua was an APS intern at IBM, where he worked on thin film deposition of oxide superconductors by laser ablation. "The main thing I've learned," Chua says, "is that real world problems are more time consuming and difficult than problem sets."

FALL WORKSHOP WILL LOOK AT UNDERGRAD PHYSICS COURSES

How can active research physicists contribute to upper-level courses in the undergraduate physics curriculum? To answer that question, APS and the American Association of Physics Teachers, with support from the National Science Foundation, are sponsoring a workshop on 16-18 November (tentative) in Denver, Colorado. The workshop will develop two programs: One will encourage universities with successful upper-level laboratory courses to organize summer workshops for physics faculty from

other institutions, so that they can learn about the content and operation of these courses. The second program involves collecting and distributing research problems, videos and computer simulations that illustrate concepts taught in upper-level core physics courses. Researchers and educators who have such materials and wish to attend the November workshop should send samples or descriptive material to Brian Schwartz, Education Officer, APS, 335 East 45 Street, New York NY 10017.